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Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: USPTO
ATTN: Examiner GEORGE ENG

From: Craig S. Fischer

Fax: (703) 872-9306

Pages: 4 (inclusive)

Re: Serial No.: 09/681,843
Filed: June 14, 2001
Attorney Docket No: MCS-071-00

Date: October 6, 2004

☐ Urgent ☒ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

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This correspondence includes the following attached papers:

1. Facsimile Cover Sheet including Certificate of Transmission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 (1 page);
2. Recordation of the Substance of an Applicant-Initiated Conversation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.333 (3 pages).

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PATENT
Microsoft Docket No. 158341.01
Attorney Docket No.: MCS-071-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: RUI et al.

Serial No.: 09/681,843

Group Art Unit: 2643

Filed: June 14, 2001

Examiner: G. ENG

For: **AUTOMATED ONLINE BROADCASTING SYSTEM AND METHOD
USING AN OMNI-DIRECTIONAL CAMERA SYSTEM FOR
VIEWING MEETINGS OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK**

**RECORDATION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF AN APPLICANT INITIATED
CONVERSATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.333**

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Fax: (703) 872-9306

Sir:

The Applicants filed an Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form on September 24, 2004, requesting a telephonic interview. A telephonic conversation between

Examiner G. Eng and C. Fischer occurred on October 6, 2004. No agreement was reached. Following is an summary of that interview.

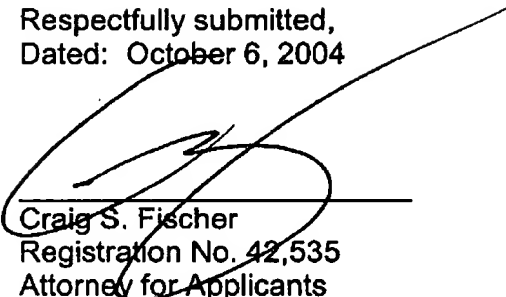
Claims 29 and 24 were discussed. Regarding claim 29, Mr. Fischer noted that the claimed invention performs audio and video tracking on all participants to keep track of each participant even when they are not speaking. Conversely, the cited art does not do tracking, only finding the person currently speaking. When the person stops speaking there is no subsequent tracking of that person. Examiner Eng said he did not yet have the response (filed 09/04/04) and that it was being scanned, but that he would keep this in mind when reviewing the case.

Regarding claim 24, Mr. Fischer noted that the claimed "negative switching" is performed on the recorded event and switches to a person that will be speaking before he begins speaking. The entire event is captured using the omni-directional camera, and when person "A" is speaking those pixels containing that person are displayed to the viewer. Next, since we know that person "B" will be speaking next, the portion of that captured image containing the person "B" (who also is the next speaker) is displayed to the viewer before person "B" begins speaking. This is negative switching. In contrast, the cited art (Bruno) merely uses voice-activated switching when switching.

Mr. Fischer and Examiner Eng could not agree on claim amendments to claim 24 that would make it clearer. However, it was agreed that Examiner Eng would call Mr. Fischer if he came up with any amendments after reviewing the response filed 09/04/04 or if he had any further questions.

In an effort to expedite and further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at (805) 278-8855 if the Examiner has any comments, questions or concerns, wishes to discuss any aspect of the prosecution of this application, or desires any degree of clarification of this paper.

Respectfully submitted,
Dated: October 6, 2004



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